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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named joint inventors, we declare that: our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are stated below next to our names; that we believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the invention entitled:

PERCUTANEOUS MITRAL ANNULOPLASTY AND CARDIAC REINFORCEMENT

which is described and claimed in the specification which was filed on **January 31, 2000** as Application Serial Number **09/494,233**; that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that we do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to the date of this application, that said invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by ourselves or our legal representative or assigns more than six months prior to this application, that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which may be material to the examination of this application as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America by ourselves or our legal representatives or assigns.

As named inventors, we hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Inventor's Signature: 

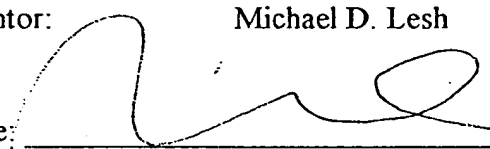
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